

The Energy And Technology Committee

February 28, 2006

Raised HB 5523: AAC Energy Efficiency

Testimony of

The Office of Consumer Counsel

Mary J. Healey, Consumer Counsel

The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) has carefully reviewed and supports Raised H.B. No. 5523: AAC Energy Efficiency, which seeks to require certain state-financed construction and renovation projects to comply with "green building" standards adopted by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management, to add new products to the energy efficiency appliance requirements, to require the Department of Administrative Services and each other agency to procure equipment and appliances that meet the federal Energy Star standards and to expand the Class III conservation trading program to all electric customers.

Just last year, at the initiation of the Governor, the OCC, DPUC, and Energy Conservation Management Board ("ECMB") organized an effort to evaluate and implement energy efficiencies for state-operated buildings, and produced a report detailing the potential opportunities for reducing energy demands. This effort is in the implementation stage and calls for a 10% reduction in energy use at state facilities in 2006.

The OCC will continue its promotion of energy efficiency in all venues as an immediate and important way to mitigate energy costs for all energy consumers. The Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund, funded by a surcharge on ratepayers' bills, has provided a reduction of 4.4 billion Kwh according to the ECMB 2005 Annual Report to the Legislature, and there are more opportunities to be pursued.

The OCC would very much want to participate in all activities related to this bill and believes it can bring detailed expertise that will serve to make this bill a positive force in the state's energy conservation activities.